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8. (Twice amended) A process of agglomerating iron ore, said process comprising commingling said iron ore with a moistening effective amount of water, a binding effective amount of guar and a binding effective amount of citric acid to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

17. (Twice amended) A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof and a binding effective amount of the salt of a weak acid, to produce an agglomerating mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

47. (Amended) A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, and adding to the ore a binder comprising a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof, and a binding effective amount of a weak acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid and mixtures thereof to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates

REMARKS

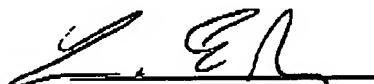
This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to amend claims 1, 8, 17 and 47 to broaden them because of amendments made in the parent application. Presently,

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claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 11, 12, 15-17, 19-22, 24-26 and 37-47 are pending. A Marked Version of the amendments is appended to the end of this document.

The Examiner mentioned during a telephone conversation on July 24, 2002, that one or more claims may be missing from the election made May 20, 2002, in response to the Office Action of April 18, 2002. The undersigned is uncertain as to which claims are missing from the election. Accordingly, additional claims may be amended if it is later found that additional claims are being prosecuted in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl: Marked Version

MARKED VERSIONIN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 17 and 47 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, [and a binder consisting of] a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof, and a binding effective amount of a weak acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid and mixtures thereof to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

8. (Twice amended) A process of agglomerating iron ore, said process comprising commingling said iron ore with a moistening effective amount of water, [and a binder consisting of] a binding effective amount of guar and a binding effective amount of citric acid to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

17. (Twice amended) A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, [and a binder consisting of] a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof and a binding effective amount of the salt of a weak acid, to produce an agglomerating mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.

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47. (Amended) A process of agglomerating metallic ore, said process comprising commingling said metallic ore with a moistening effective amount of water, and adding to the ore a binder [consisting of] comprising a binding effective amount of a polymer selected from the group consisting of guar, guar derivatives and mixtures thereof, and a binding effective amount of a weak acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid and mixtures thereof to produce a mixture and forming said mixture into agglomerates.